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COUNTRY: Pakistan
SUBJECT: Impressions of Mohammed Ali's US Visit And Return to Pakistan

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1. On Wednesday, 20 Oct 54, at about eight AM, Mohammed Ali, Premier of Pakistan, received a message from Pakistan in Washington, DC. His resulting decision to return to Pakistan immediately was not relayed to the Pakistan Press Attache. The news broke from Canada after that government had been informed that the Prime Minister would not make his scheduled call there. At the Pakistan Embassy on Thursday morning, 21 Oct 54, nobody seemed to be concerned over developments in Pakistan and Mohammed Ali appeared to be calm and very cheerful. I asked him why he had cut short his trip, and he said that it was because of the coming opening of the Constituent Assembly which he thought he should attend without being tired from a hurried return.
2. Mohammed Ali left the US feeling that his visit had been fairly successful. He and his party had had an opportunity to present their case and he did return home with a small loan as fruit of his mission. He never mentioned or indicated disappointment at his reception in the US, as some columnists have written. He understood that this is election time and that officials had many pressing duties elsewhere.
3. On his arrival in Karachi the Prime Minister talked to the Governor General and they decided between them to reconstitute the Cabinet. The Minister of Interior and the Minister of Food and Industries have been replaced by what I consider the strongest Pakistan Cabinet to date. I have heard some question about the desirability of bringing in the chief of the army as Defense Minister, to hold both posts, because of the danger of establishing a precedent. However, he is a good man and very pro-US, so that there is no real danger.
4. Nonetheless, the Governor General was very ill-advised to call the change in the Cabinet a national crisis. The act of changing officials should have been accomplished quietly and democratically the way Churchill did recently in his major Cabinet shake-up in the UK. The problem of the Constituent Assembly results from its establishment six or seven years ago under the old guard of the Muslim League so that it is not fully representative of the people. The Assembly has tried to obtain a constitution but there have been too many divergent views to be successful. Now it is still too early to guess when there actually will be elections and completion of a constitution.

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